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## NOTES OF THE FARM.

By W. F. MASSEY, of A. & M. College.

Another friend takes occasion to use in very flattering terms of the good which he thinks my letters are doing. Of course it is gratifying to get these letters. The same friend goes on to ask some questions. He says: "I have been mixing my own fertilizers with very satisfactory results and a great saving in money. But there is one thing I cannot understand. In all the tables I see in *Scientific Monthly* of potash is said to contain 50 per cent. of actual potash and sulphate from 50 to 55 of potash. The muriate of potash that I have been buying is marked on the bags 80 per cent. and the sulphate 90 per cent. Does this mean that there is 80 per cent. of muriate in each 100 pounds I buy? If that is the case then in buying a 200 pound sack of muriate and a half cents a pound I am getting 160 pounds of muriate. The figures on the sack mean what you say, that there is but 80 per cent. of the muriate. To make it a chemically pure article would make it too costly to use as a fertilizer. Your 80 per cent. muriate will have 50.56 per cent. of potash in form of potassium oxide, which is potash actual. On the other hand a 90 per cent. of actual potash, and but 48.6 per cent. of actual potash, and would be rather an inferior article. Figures on bags of fertilizing materials and mixed fertilizers are often misleading to the farmer. This is particularly the case with mixed fertilizers, where they often put a lot of figures to beguile the farmer and to lead him to think it contains a great deal more than it does. Our law in this regard is the best in the country, as it requires simply that the percentages of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash be stated. Fertilizer men are fond of putting the percentage of nitrogen in ammonia, because the figures look larger than if they gave the actual nitrogen content. In a 200 pound sack of muriate of 80 per cent you will have 161.12 pounds of actual potash. As the commercial value of potash is about 5 cents per pound, you will see that you are paying merely a fair price for the potash. The only trouble is that you have to freight nearly twice as much as you want to get the potash. But this is not an international adulteration, but simply matters that cannot be got rid of without a largely increased expense and a far larger price.

A Greensboro friend writes that he has taken pleasure in reading these letters and as he is a farmer he wishes to ask some questions: "I believe as you do that the way to improve the land of this section is to sow peas, feed them to stock and sell the stock for a money crop and return the manure to the land. But I cannot make as good tobacco on improved land as I could before sowing peas. Can I not make more feed and make it cheaper by planting late corn after I cut my wheat instead of sowing peas on this land. You see peas have gone up to over \$1.00 per bushel and fertilizers have advanced in price, making it more expensive to raise peas. I thought that I could plant two or three grains in a hill and cut the corn in the roasting ear stage, and make more feed and make it cheaper. I usually sow 20 to 25 acres in peas, and at present price it will cost me about \$100.00 for seed and fertilizer to sow this crop. Now can I not take that \$100 and buy that much more feed or manure? That 25 acres of fairly good land with the fertilizer you mention ought to make at least two tons of pea hay per acre, or 50 tons of hay, well worth for feeding \$500. Then the land would be benefited by the growing of the peas to such an extent that the succeeding crop would be better. Planted in late corn and the corn cut for silage the same piece of land with the fertilizer would be doing very well to make 6 tons of green forage per acre. This six tons of silage would be worth \$2 per ton or \$12 per acre, or \$200 for the 25 acres, and the land would be far worse off than when the corn was planted, and will not produce anything as well the following year. Then I cannot believe that the improvement of the soil makes the tobacco crop less valuable. There may be an extra amount of organic nitrogen in the soil immediately following a pea crop, that may tend to make the leaf rather coarse for bright wrappers, but you need not put the tobacco immediately after the peas in this case. I know that the kind of soil of which the tobacco has been brought to a high state of cultivation through the use of clover and peas is better than the notion that a man must enrich his soil in order to grow good tobacco is largely a mistake. And if it was true and I was the farmer, I would quit tobacco then and there and grow something that I could grow on such land and make money out of it. I am firmly of the opinion that in Guilford county I could run a rotation of corn, wheat, clover and cattle and make more money out of the land than the men who are starving their lands to keep the tobacco bright and fine. I know one man who is growing fine wrappers who makes a double rotation for his tobacco crop. On three lots where his tobacco grows he makes a three year rotation of tobacco, wheat and clover. He plows under in the winter the whole growth of clover for the tobacco, and then follows the tobacco with wheat, and

## COTTON GROWERS' CONVENTION.

Plan Outlined for Holding Back Cotton and Cotton Seed.

(Atlanta Journal.)

Last Saturday at LaGrange, Ga., a movement was inaugurated on the part of the Troupe country farmers which is the most important of anything ever undertaken in behalf of the Southern farmer. This new movement is the outgrowth of a similar one undertaken last fall by the farmers of Troupe, but which at that time was only intended to apply locally to that immediate territory of the state. Its operation, however, extended to many counties of the state, and every farmer who held his cotton the past season made good money on sales made after the heavy advance in prices since February. Local banks readily agreed to advance money on cotton in storage at a low rate of interest, holding the warehouse cotton receipts as collateral. Many farmers who were not financially able to hold their cotton at home, but could store it in warehouses, using it as collateral to borrow money with which to meet maturing obligations, took advantage of the plan and so came out ahead on the deal.

### STATE CONVENTION CALLED.

It was decided at the meeting in LaGrange last Saturday to issue a call for a state convention to be held at Macon on Saturday, May 12th, to arrange ways and means for a general and permanent organization of the cotton growers in the southern states. The present intention is to first perfect organization in Georgia and immediately thereafter to extend the movement into all the other cotton growing states. It was important that the convention be called as early as possible, because there is an immense territory of country to be traversed and thousands of centers made in order that success as desired may be assured. Within five months from now the cotton season will open with a rush, and time is to be lost if the movement is to be gotten well under way within that short period of time. We will arrange to secure the opera house at Macon in which to hold the convention, and the delegates may rely upon the old fashioned warm hospitality of the Macon people to do all in their power for the comfort and pleasure of the delegates during their short stay in our Central city. The railroads in all parts of the state will be asked to furnish delegates with a low rate of fare and the rate when fixed will be duly advertised. We expect to have speeches by prominent agriculturalists from different parts of the state and to organize all the machinery for future operation on a strictly business basis.

### PLAN AS OUTLINED.

The organization will be first for the purpose of holding back our cotton and cotton seed from the market in the early fall and thus avoid the heavy sales which each season tend to cut down the prices. The idea is to insist upon a fair and equitable price from the purchasers rather than forcing them to buy at prices fixed by themselves as has been the prevailing custom heretofore. If the price offered for our cotton and cotton seed is lower than the demand justifies, we propose to inaugurate plans by which they may be held until such time and place as other buyers appreciate the situation sufficiently to come to terms. Thousands of our independent, self-sustaining farmers can hold their cotton on their premises, stored in small corrugated iron warehouses, which can be cheaply constructed and then insured against loss by fire. Thousands of others, who make more than enough to pay their annual debts, but who have obligations maturing in the fall, can store their cotton in local warehouses, deposit receipts for same with the local banks and draw enough money for pressing needs. Cotton is as good security as a government bond, and will lend money at it as collateral at a rate of 6 to 8 per cent per annum. There are thousands of other farmers who, being less thrifty, do not raise their supplies at home and are forced to mortgage their cotton crops in order to obtain credit. This class generally have to deliver the cotton to merchants as fast as it is gathered and have not control over its management aside from the consent of those who hold it in bondage. For this class of farmers we hope to enlist the support and backing of all the merchants with whom they deal and who are strong enough to help their customers to hold at least a part of their cotton. We believe that the merchants and bankers will co-operate with us in this movement, at least to the extent of checking a deluge of the cotton crop on the market in the early months of the season. We hope to extend the period of sales from three months to nine months, at least, so that the demand will be strong and healthy at all times.

### DEMAND AND SUPPLY.

While it is a well established fact that the world now requires all the cotton we are growing, and consequently the supply is not greater than the demand, yet there is for the first ninety days of the selling season an abnormally large supply, which greatly overbalances existing demands by the mills for raw cotton during that period. The result is a glutted market for the time being, and the principal factor in the purchase of this surplus cotton is the speculator, whose interest it is to hammer down prices while buying, and later, when selling to the mills, advance prices as much as possible. Even though the mills should come into the market, buying up their twelve months' supply, as a matter of business they would seek to secure their stock at as low a figure as the situation warranted. They calculate closely interest on the investment of their money in all cotton which must be held for future consumption, storage, insurance, loss in weight and other fixed charges on the care and handling of this surplus stock. The farmer pays all of these charges; it is indirectly deducted from the price paid him for his cotton, and he has no cause for complaint with the mills, since,

by his own bad business judgment, he forced the purchaser to buy his cotton, knowing the condition surrounding the sale at such a time. In this way we paralyze what would otherwise be a strong, healthy demand by crowding an enormous surplus on the market during a short period of time. The situation is so plain that every farmer can readily understand and appreciate it, and unless some changes are made to correct existing evils, there will never come a time when the producer will receive the true value of his money products.

### CONCERT OF ACTION.

The moment then for concert of action on a strictly business basis has come, and there has never been a more suitable occasion for making a movement in the right direction than the present. There has never been in the history of our country a stronger demand for cotton goods in all parts of the world, and the stock of American cotton was never so low in this country and at European markets. At the opening of next season mills will be forced to come actively into the market for raw material with which to keep their business going, and to supply the heavy demand of the trade for cloth. Even though a large crop of cotton is harvested as is now anticipated, good prices will prevail if the crop is judiciously managed, and sold only to the mills as they require it for immediate consumption. We propose, by united concert of action, to keep the cotton market in a state of suspense, fully posted as regards crop conditions during picking season, the number of bales of cotton actually ginned each week at every ginery throughout the cotton belt of the south, the amount of cotton sold, the amount of stock on hand and being used for consumption by the mills, the price of cotton goods, as compared with price of raw material, and many other important facts which will tend to keep us fully posted in regard to the whole business. A central office will be established for obtaining this information and sending out weekly reports to all the country organizations, through which the individual members will be reached.

This, in brief, an outline of the proposed organization, showing its purposes and what it is expected to realize for southern cotton producers. The movement will depend upon the action of the delegates who have been invited to attend the convention at Macon, called on May 12th. The details and method of work will be settled upon in definite shape at the convention, and it is hoped the meeting will be largely attended, and a plan formulated which will greatly aid the financial condition of southern cotton producers.

### ELECTING DELEGATES.

The time fixed for the convention is only a short time off, hence the importance of quick action on the part of all the counties in calling a meeting for the purpose of selecting delegates. There will be no restriction in number as to delegates from any county, we want as many farmers present at the convention as can come, and who feel an interest in this movement. We want a rousing big meeting and a full exposition of our strength and determination to go earnestly to work for the betterment of our financial condition. We want the grand old Empire State of the South to take the initial step in this great movement, and flash the news across the hills and valleys of every southern farm from the mountains of Virginia to the far western plains of Texas. We want to revolutionize a system of doing business which has gone out of date, and stand side by side with all other institutions in the march of progress. Have the farmers of your county come together at once, let the call be made through the weekly press, either by individuals or the heads of your local agricultural societies, the farmers institute, or the delegates selected, having the convention as widely as possible among their agricultural readers and in every way aid in the success of a plan which means the betterment of the financial condition of the southern cotton producer. We want the biggest and most enthusiastic convention held in Georgia by the farmers at an time within the past quarter of a century.

C. H. JORDAN.

### BRYAN'S LETTER OF REGRET.

Unable to Attend a Jefferson Banquet at Syracuse.

Syracuse, N. Y., April 21.—William Jennings Bryan and Admiral Dewey have sent to Mayor McGuire, of this city, letters of regret at being unable to accept invitations to attend the banquet to be given in this city next Monday evening, in honor of Thomas Jefferson, by the local Democracy. In his letter Mr. Bryan says that Jefferson made the Democratic party invincible while he lived to give it counsel.

"The party will again become invincible," continues Mr. Bryan, "if it adheres to the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. This doctrine was, the Chicago platform, applied to the issues before the country in 1896 and must be applied to the trust question and to the subject of imperialism."

While mentioning these two issues Mr. Bryan fails to refer to the currency question.

## Bill Arp's Letter.

The Philosopher Loves the Children And Thinks it May Mean That He is Growing Old.

That pony and dog show is the best entertainment for children I ever saw. I reckon that Professor Gentry runs it for the money that is in it, but nevertheless he should be commended and honored for the pleasure that he has given to thousands and thousands of children all over the land. The poet said that Abou Ben Adhem was admitted to heaven by St. Peter because he loved his fellow men and maybe the professor will get in because he worked so hard to please the children. Children are a big thing in heaven. "Suffer little children to come unto Me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven" is the sweetest verse in the Bible to mothers and it utterly paralyzes the dogma of infant damnation. I know there is plenty of scripture to establish the doctrine of sick children, but I have never believed that it applied to little children. The maternal instinct abhors it.

But this pony and dog show was a most beautiful street pageant and was free to the hundreds who were too poor to pay for the tent performance. They ought to thank the professor for that. I am poor myself, but I strained my pocketbook and took all our little folks in. They are still talking about it. The monkey who played doctor and the pony who laid down and groaned and played sick and the monkey who cured him and they tell it all over again and again and how they rode on the ponies and the tricks of the beautiful dogs and so on. How wonderfully fond the children are of little things, little dolls and puppies and kittens, little horses and colts and calves, little tiny babies and little chickens. Old folks like little children and it is a sure sign that a man is nearing his second childhood and that his hold upon the world is weakening when he loves the company of innocent children. Now I am not so dreadfully stuck on the average boys. When they are good they are very good indeed, but when they are bad they are horrid. One day a grand-child behaved so bad at the table that I told him he should not come any more, but should wait or eat in the kitchen. When I got up and left he said: "Gamm, papa gettin' mighty old, ain't he?" "Yes," she said. "Gamm, he'll die some time, won't he?" But I do love the little girls.

I am now in Florida again, for the good people kept calling me and the spring has come and everything down here is so calm and serene that I am glad I accepted their invitations. The loyal daughters of the Confederacy are very strong in Florida and asked for a little help and so I am here in their behalf. I had two hours in Savannah, but had to leave at 9 o'clock in the morning and so did not see my friends, for nobody gets up in Savannah until dinner time and some few lie abed till next day. That's what Evan Howell told me. I traveled with him all the way and enjoyed his company, for he is always the same good talker and he gave me a graphic account of his recent Havana trip. He likes the Cubans, especially the Castilian classes, who, he says, are a high-toned, generous and honorable people. He feared that our occupation of Cuba was going to be prejudicial to Florida, but he stopped long enough down here to do away with such apprehensions. Florida cannot have a substitute and will always be the loveliest State in the Union—the natural sanitarium for our invalids and the garden of the South. An old Georgia friend who has been here for some months told me today that this State never was in so prosperous condition as it is today and that there is more money here per capita than there is in Georgia. Every branch of business industry is prospering and the people generally are contented and happy. Howell says the worst drawback upon the rural population is the lack of good, cool, refreshing water. He told about an old friend of his who came down here for the first time to visit an old acquaintance. He got off the train at Wabdo, where his friend met him, and drove out to his little farm two or three miles away. The day was hot and the old man was tired and thirsty and longed for the cool spring he left at home. His Florida friend pulled down the pole and the basket went down into a hole in the ground a few feet deep and drew it up full of brackish, tepid water and said: "Now, Jim, just help yourself; drink right out of the bucket in the old-fashioned way;" and he did. It didn't take him long to get enough and he said:

"I've got enough, Tom; drink the rest yourself, and when you come to my house I'll heat some for you."

It is a beautiful prospect to look from the trains at this country now. Every mile or two you see the truck farm in a strait of vegetation, and the strawberries especially attracted my attention. I dearly love to see them by the acre and look upon the pink and carnation colors that mingle so prettily with the green leaves. At almost every station the crates of berries are piled up waiting for the express trains to speed them to market. They are now bringing \$7 a crate at the producer's station, and there is money in the business. Children, white and black, are seen picking them. Little girls get three cents a quart and little boys two and a half cents, for the girls handle them more

carefully and don't steal every big one they find.

Then there are the new potatoes and tomatoes and cabbages that are in full harvest and bring good prices. As to cattle, you are hardly ever out of sight of them. They are not great big fat cattle, but our lamented friend, Judge Clark, said a Florida heifer in a fair condition made the best and sweetest breakfast in the world and was more like venison than beef. The lumber and turpentine business down here is on a regular boom. Lumber that a year ago brought only \$12 a thousand now brings \$24 to \$30, and turpentine has advanced from twenty-four cents a gallon to fifty-five cents.

I've got a good joke on myself or on somebody else. My old friend, Phil Brown, who used to run the old Markham in Atlanta, wrote me a nice letter a month ago and begged me to come down to Ocala and be his guest at the Plant Hotel that he has been running all the winter. So I made straight for Ocala house, and he seemed surprised to see me. We talked for some time about the good old times we used to have. I had had no dinner and not much breakfast and was as hungry as a wolf. The sun went down and the big dining room doors did not open. Some friends called to see me, and it grew later and darker but still those doors were closed, and I noticed that Mr. Brown had departed these coasts. About 7:30 o'clock I ventured to inquire of a lad what time they had supper. He smiled at me and said: "We don't have it here no more. This house is closed for the winter." He was very kind and took me to the door and pointed to a place where I could get something to eat, and I, too, departed these coasts with alacrity. The next time Mr. Brown invites me I will go sooner or not go at all.

HILL ARP.

### WOULD AMEND FORAKER RESOLUTION.

Making Franchises in Porto Rico Inoperative Till Approved by the President.

Washington, April 21.—The House Committee on Insular Affairs voted today to amend the Foraker resolution so as to make franchises and concessions inoperative until approved by the President; also placing rigorous restrictions on charters to private corporations.

The original resolution coming over from the Senate simply carried out the recent recommendations of the President, extending the terms of officers now serving in Porto Rico until their successors are appointed. There was no division on that, the main question being as to whether this resolution would carry the franchise restrictions.

The text of the amendments as adopted, is as follows:

"Section 2. That all franchises, privileges, of concessions, mentioned in section 32 of said act be approved by the President of the United States and no such franchise, privilege or concessions shall be operative until it shall have been so approved."

"Section 3. That all charters of private corporations shall provide that the same shall be subject to amendment, alteration or repeal; shall forbid the issue of stock or bonds except in exchange for actual cash or property at a fair valuation, equal in amount to the par value of the stocks or bonds issued; shall forbid the declaring of stock or bond dividends, and in the case of public service corporations, shall provide for the effective regulation of their charges thereon, and for the purchase or taking by the public authorities of their property at a fair valuation. No corporation shall be authorized to conduct the business of buying and selling real estate, of issuing currency, or of engaging in agriculture, or permitted to hold or own real estate, except such as may be reasonably necessary to enable it to carry out the purpose for which it is created. Banking corporations, however, may be authorized to loan funds upon real estate security and to purchase real estate when necessary for the collection of loans; but they shall dispose of all real estate so obtained, within five years after receiving the title. Corporations other than those organized in Porto Rico and doing business therein, shall be bound by the provisions of this section so far as they are applicable."

After the meeting Mr. Cooper said:

"The restrictions on corporations is designed to raise a safeguard before it is too late. Instead of waiting for fictitious capitalization and watered stock, we seek to avoid the possibility of 'balloon' enterprises and to place restrictions which the various States have put in their laws."

It is believed that the original resolution will be jeopardized in the Senate and may not pass before May 1st, the date on which it is essential the act shall become operative. But M. Cooper replied that if this occurred the responsibility would be placed on the Senate.

### The Christian Endeavor Convention.

The North Carolina Convention of Christian Endeavor will meet here next Thursday, the 26th inst., at the Christian Church. The convention includes one hundred and fifty societies and several denominations are represented in it. It is inter-denominational. Rev. Dr. N. N. Butler will deliver the address of welcome on behalf of the city, and Rev. M. W. Butler will speak a welcome in behalf of the church.

True happiness consists of getting something you want but didn't expect.